



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS

MARK WAID • MIKE DEL MUNDO

MARVEL

#2

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THE AVENGERS



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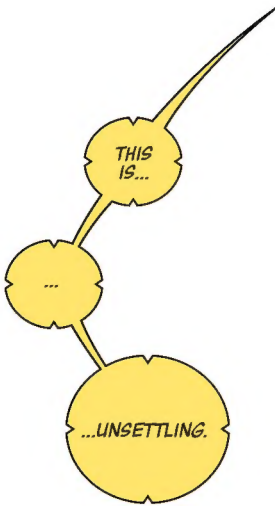
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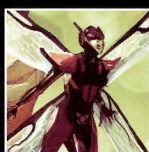
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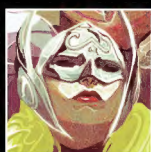


And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS



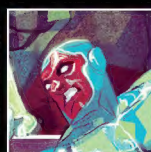
WASP
Nadia Pym



THOR
Jane Foster



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION



SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



HERCULES

The Vision traveled through time to abduct the infamous villain Kang as a baby, hoping that Kang would never grow up to terrorize Vision and his fellow Avengers. But the resulting paradox created dozens of Kangs, all out for blood--and two of them decided to use Vision's own strategy against him, traveling back in the timestream and killing the Avengers as children!

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Letterer	VC's Cory Petit
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Chief Creative Officer	Joe Quesada
Publisher	Dan Buckley
Executive Producer	Alan Fine

The Avengers created by **Stan Lee & Jack Kirby**



WHERE
ARE WE?

WE'RE
NOT...~~DEAD~~,
ARE WE?

I HAVE
DRAKE TICKETS
FOR THE 23RD.

WE HAD
REALLY BETTER
NOT BE DEAD.

WE LIVE.
WE WERE
TRANSPORTED
ELSEWHERE,
ABRUPTLY.

"ELSEWHERE,"
VISION?

I BELIEVE I
RECOGNIZE THIS
ENVIRONMENT FROM
THE SEVERE LACK
OF SENSORY
INPUT.

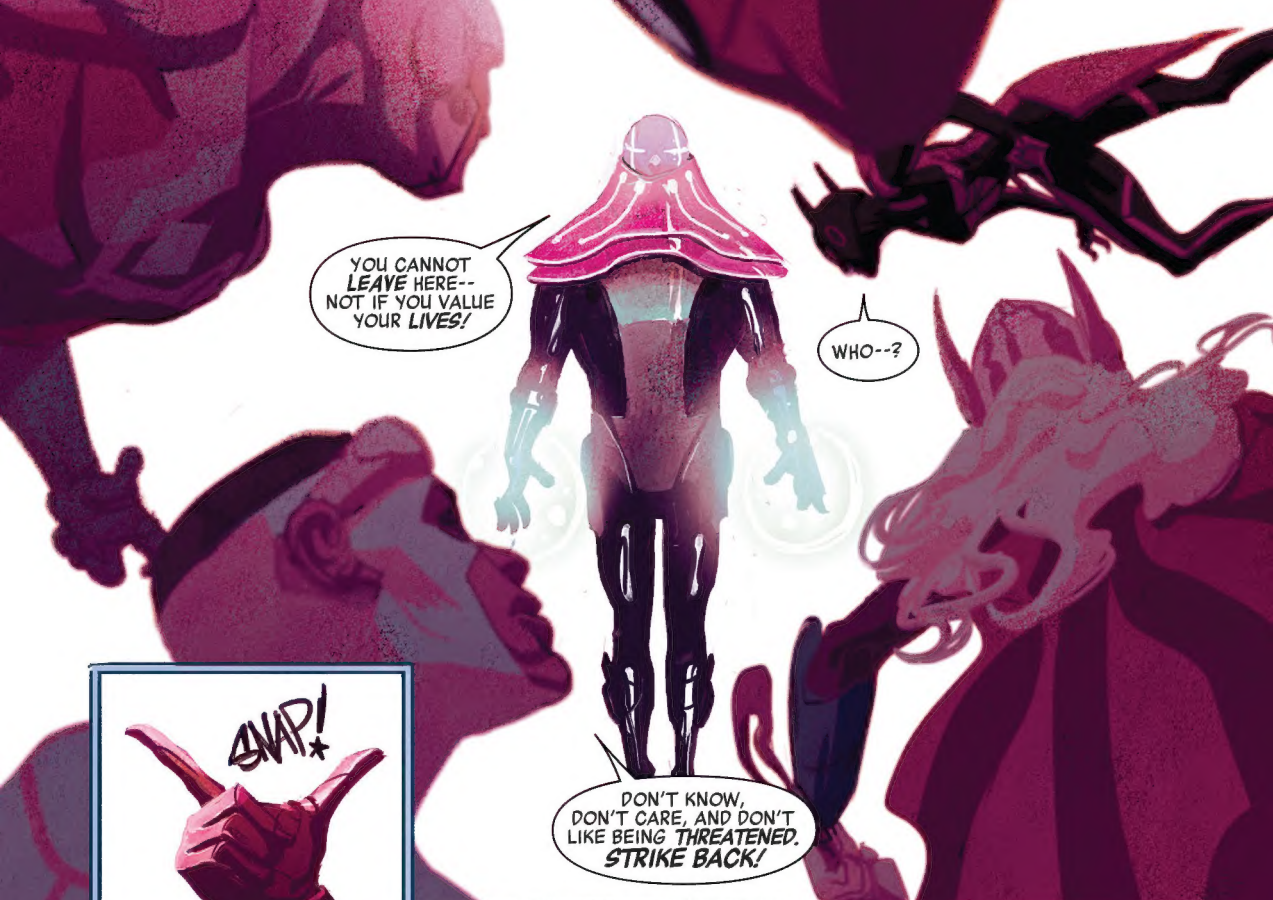
IT APPEARS
TO BE LIMBO.
THOR'S HAMMER HAS
OPENED A PORTAL TO
THIS REALM MORE
THAN ONCE.

THEN IT
CAN REMOVE
US AS WELL.
STAND
BACK--

STOP!

HHNGH!





YOU CANNOT
LEAVE HERE--
NOT IF YOU VALUE
YOUR LIVES!

WHO--?

DON'T KNOW,
DON'T CARE, AND DON'T
LIKE BEING THREATENED.
STRIKE BACK!



SNAP!★

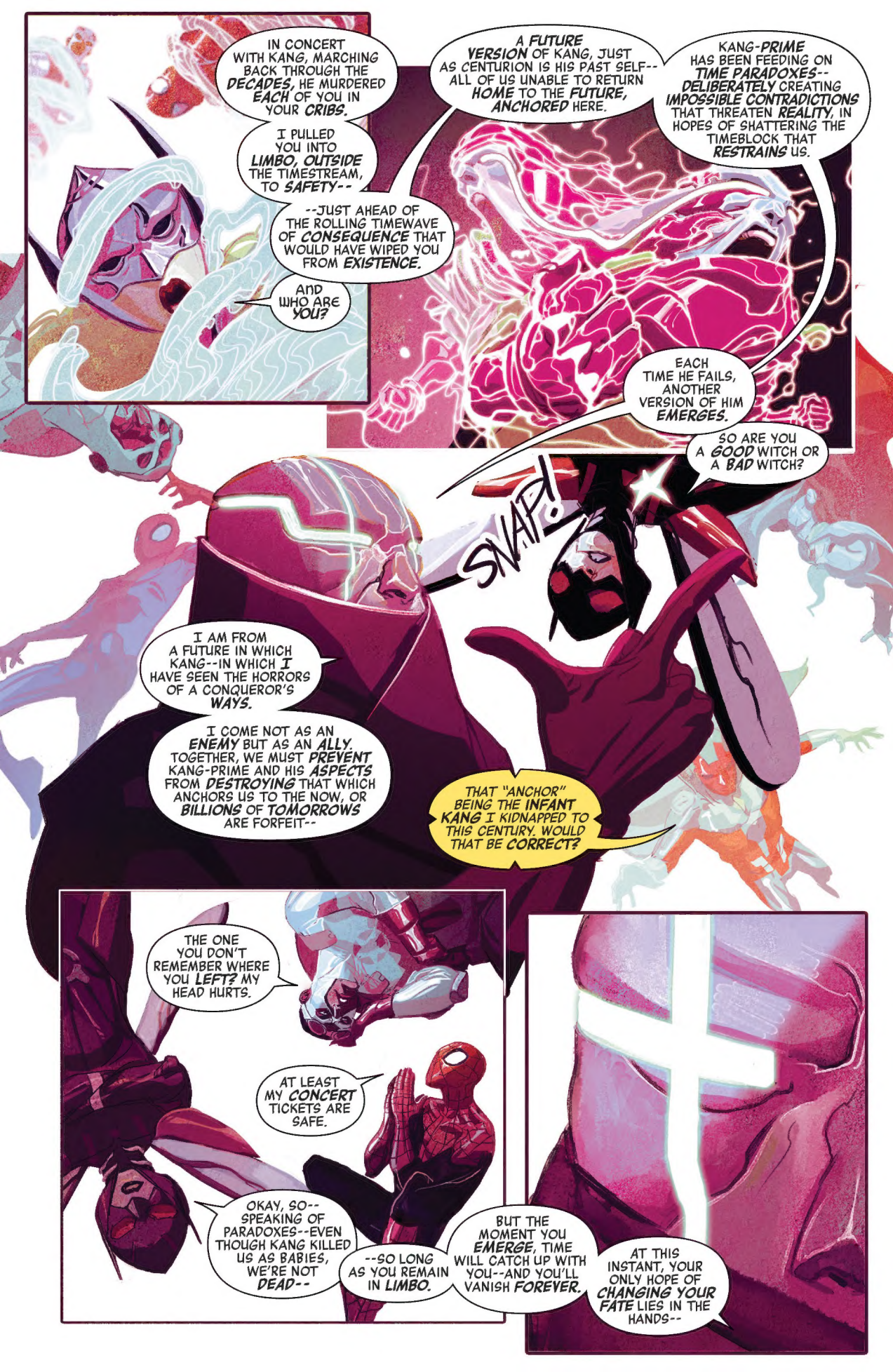


IT WASN'T
A **THREAT**,
CAPTAIN. I'M
SAVING YOU. **HAVE**
SAVED YOU. **WILL**
SAVE YOU.

TIME-TRAVEL
CONJUGATION
IS **COMPLICATED**.
SORRY.



YOU CAN
BLAME YOUR
CURRENT STATE
ON THE **SCARLET**
CENTURION.



IN CONCERT
WITH KANG, MARCHING
BACK THROUGH THE
DECADES, HE MURDERED
EACH OF YOU IN
YOUR **CRIBS**.

I PULLED
YOU INTO
LIMBO, OUTSIDE
THE TIMESTREAM,
TO **SAFETY**--

--JUST AHEAD OF
THE ROLLING TIMEWAVE
OF **CONSEQUENCE** THAT
WOULD HAVE WIPED YOU
FROM **EXISTENCE**.

AND
WHO ARE
YOU?

A **FUTURE**
VERSION OF KANG, JUST
AS CENTURION IS HIS PAST SELF--
ALL OF US UNABLE TO RETURN
HOME TO THE **FUTURE**,
ANCHORED HERE.

KANG-PRIME
HAS BEEN FEEDING ON
TIME PARADOXES--
DELIBERATELY CREATING
IMPOSSIBLE CONTRADICTIONS
THAT THREATEN **REALITY**, IN
HOPES OF SHATTERING THE
TIMEBLOCK THAT
RESTRAINS US.

EACH
TIME HE FAILS,
ANOTHER
VERSION OF HIM
EMERGES.

SO ARE YOU
A **GOOD** WITCH OR
A **BAD** WITCH?

I AM FROM
A FUTURE IN WHICH
KANG--IN WHICH I
HAVE SEEN THE HORRORS
OF A CONQUEROR'S
WAYS.

I COME NOT AS AN
ENEMY BUT AS AN **ALLY**.
TOGETHER, WE MUST **PREVENT**
KANG-PRIME AND HIS **ASPECTS**
FROM **DESTROYING** THAT WHICH
ANCHORS US TO THE NOW, OR
BILLIONS OF **TOMORROWS**
ARE FORFEIT--

SNAP!

THAT "ANCHOR"
BEING THE **INFANT**
KANG I KIDNAPPED TO
THIS CENTURY. WOULD
THAT BE **CORRECT**?

THE ONE
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER WHERE
YOU **LEFT**? MY
HEAD HURTS.

AT LEAST
MY **CONCERT**
TICKETS ARE
SAFE.

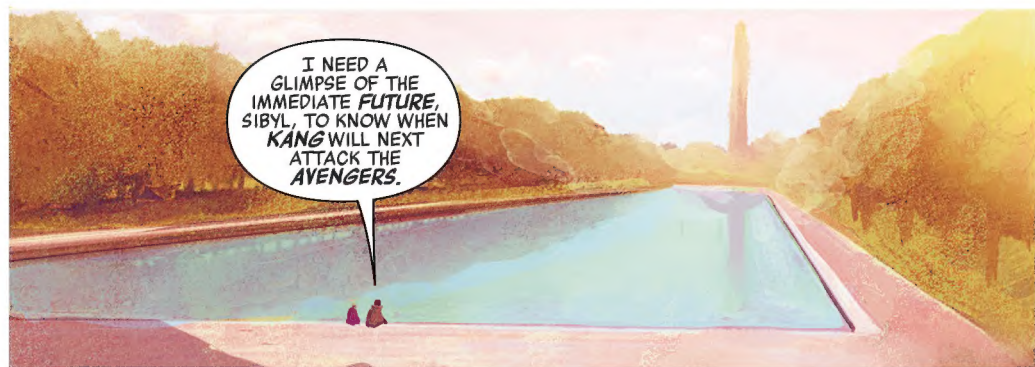
OKAY, SO--
SPEAKING OF
PARADOXES--EVEN
THOUGH KANG KILLED
US AS **BABIES**,
WE'RE NOT
DEAD--

--SO LONG
AS YOU REMAIN
IN **LIMBO**.

BUT THE
MOMENT YOU
EMERGE, TIME
WILL CATCH UP WITH
YOU--AND YOU'LL
VANISH **FOREVER**.

AT THIS
INSTANT, YOUR
ONLY HOPE OF
CHANGING YOUR
FATE LIES IN THE
HANDS--





I NEED A GLIMPSE OF THE IMMEDIATE **FUTURE**, SIBYL, TO KNOW WHEN **KANG** WILL NEXT ATTACK THE **AVENGERS**.



KANG?
OH, HE'S **CATASTROPHIC**, THAT ONE.

I'M **AWARE**.

SCARLET CENTURION, TOO?
ALL RIGHT. LET ME DO MY **THING**. I CAN VIEW ALL TIME AND SPACE FROM HERE, SEE WHAT HE'S **UP TO--**



EEEEYYAHH!

SIBYL!

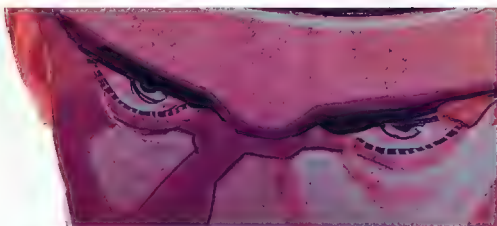


I'M OKAY.
I'M OKAY.

THIS IS **BAD**, HERCULES. KANG HAS **ELIMINATED** THE AVENGERS BY HAVING THEM **MURDERED AS BABIES**. TIME HAS **WARPED**. THE AVENGERS NO LONGER **EXIST**.

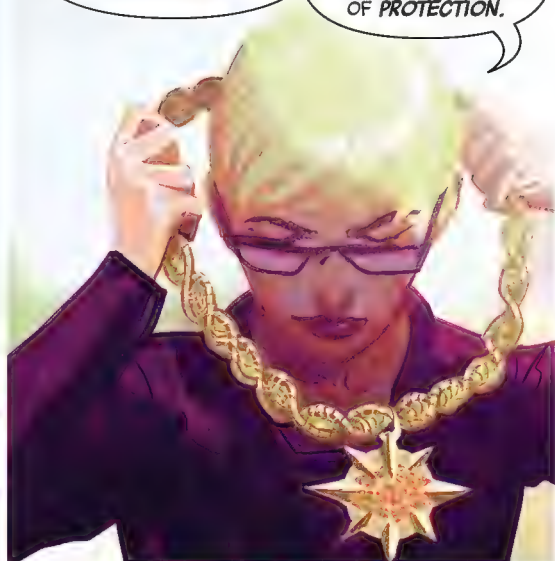
I STILL **EXIST**. WHY?

EITHER HE SEES YOU AS NOTHING TO **FRET** OVER--



KANG IS
CREATING **PARADOXES**
THAT ARE ENDANGERING ALL
REALITY. THAT'S WHY WE STILL
REMEMBER AVENGERS
NEVER BORN.

IN ONE OF HIS
MANY FORMS, KANG
WILL COME FOR YOU
EVENTUALLY. TAKE THIS
FOR SOME SEMBLANCE
OF **PROTECTION**.



--OR, MORE
LIKELY, THERE
AREN'T ANY **RECORDS**
OF YOUR BIRTH. WHAT
YEAR WAS IT? I
DON'T KNOW. NO
ONE DOES.



YOU'LL
RECALL THAT, IN
ANCIENT ROME, I
STOOD AT THE DOOR
TO THE **AFTERLIFE**.
THIS KEPT ME
SAFE.

IT WILL KEEP
YOU AND THOSE
AROUND YOU
TETHERED TO THE
MORTAL PLANE.



AND THIS
KEY CARD?

DID WE EVER
THINK WE'D BE
USING WORDS LIKE
"KEY CARD"?

ACCESS TO
MY PRIVATE JET.
YOU'RE GOING TO
NEED IT TO GET
TO YOUR NEXT
STOP.

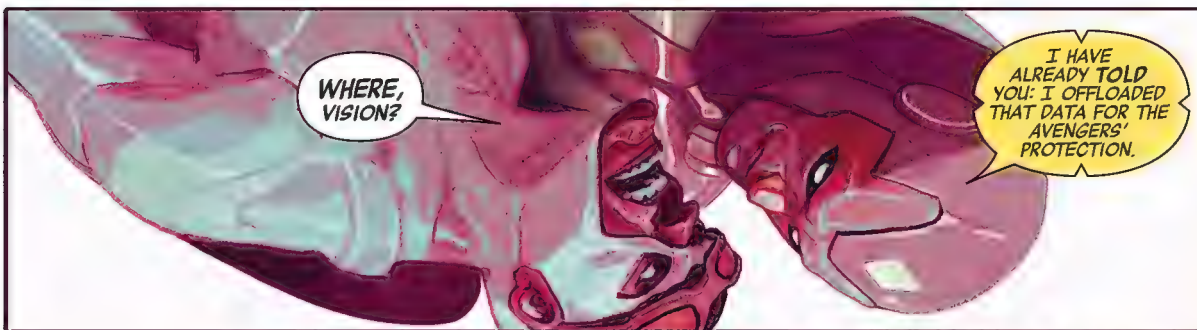


WHICH
IS...?

VIETNAM.
THE TEMPLE OF
THE PRIESTS OF PAMA.

BOOM





WHERE, VISION?

I HAVE
ALREADY TOLD
YOU: I OFFLOADED
THAT DATA FOR THE
AVENGERS'
PROTECTION.



I DON'T
FEEL VERY
PROTECTED
RIGHT NOW!

I AM
SORRY, WASP,
PERHAPS OUR
HOST...?



I, TOO, AM A
VICTIM OF KANG'S
PARADOXES: THE **MEMORY**
OF WHAT MY PAST SELF
LEARNED ABOUT THE
CHILD HAS **FADED**.

THERE IS
SOMETHING I
REMEMBER--SOMETHING
ABOUT AN **ARTIFACT** OR
STONE OR SOME SUCH
THAT IS **KEY**--BUT UNTIL
SOMETHING OCCURS TO
REMIND ME--

"--THERE IS
NOTHING I
CAN DO!"





OF COURSE
THE ANDROID
TURNED TO THE
PRIESTS OF
PAMA!

THEY
SEEM A **HARDY**
BREED--

--BUT
WHAT THEY
WIELD IN **NUMBERS**,
THEY LACK IN
FIREPOWER!



YOU ARE
NOT **WELCOME**
HERE.

WE ARE
PACIFISTS BY
NATURE, BUT WE
WILL FIGHT TO
SAVE THE **CHILD**
ENTRUSTED
TO US.

I WOULD
EXPECT NO **LESS**
THAN **HONORABLE**
COMBAT.



THE AVENGERS
ARE AMONG THE
FEW AWARE OF YOUR
EXISTENCE.

YOUR
TEMPLE IS AS
CLEVER A HIDING
PLACE AS VISION
WOULD BE LIKELY
TO **FIND** IN THIS
DECADE.

YOU
GUARD IT
WELL.

BUT I AM
KANG.

I
CONQUER.



NOT
TODAY.



THESE
PEOPLE ARE UNDER
MY PROTECTION!



AH, YES. THE
UNACCOUNTED-
FOR AVENGER.

LET'S SEE
HOW WELL YOU
FIGHT ONCE I DRAW
A CENTURY OR
TWO OUT OF
YOU.

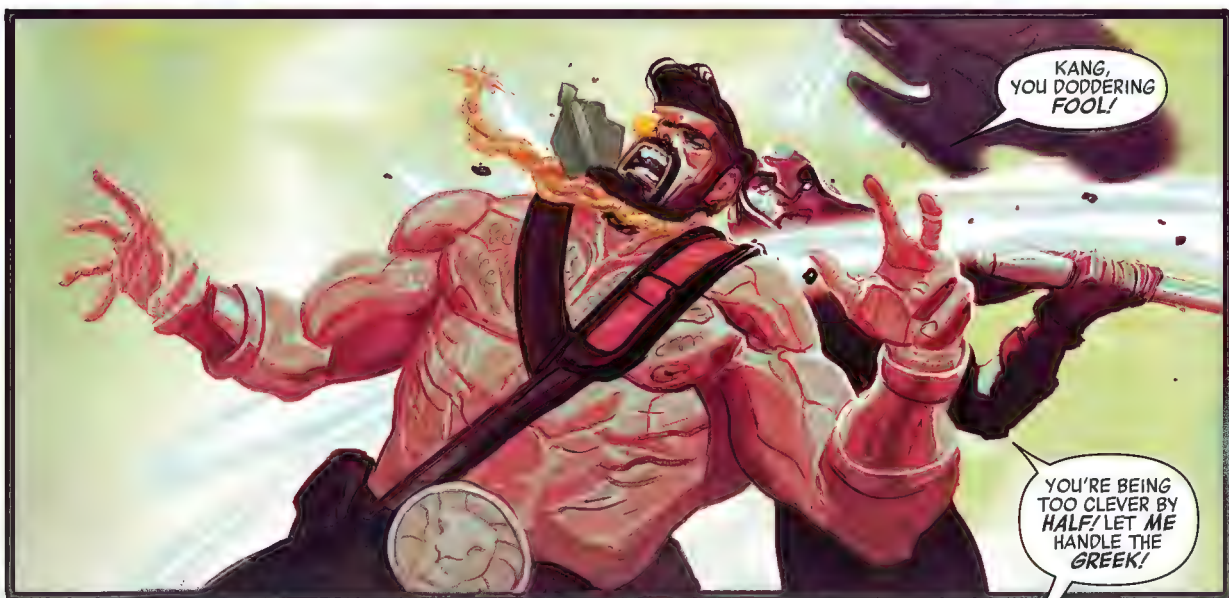


A CENTURY?

PLEASE.

I AM HERCULES, SON OF ZEUS! I'LL LIVE TO SEE THE SUN GO COLD!

I HAVE CENTURIES TO SPARE!

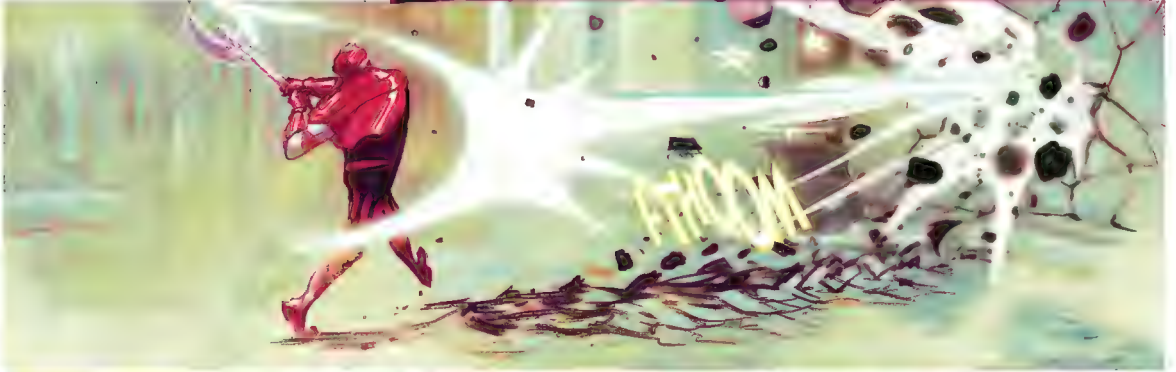


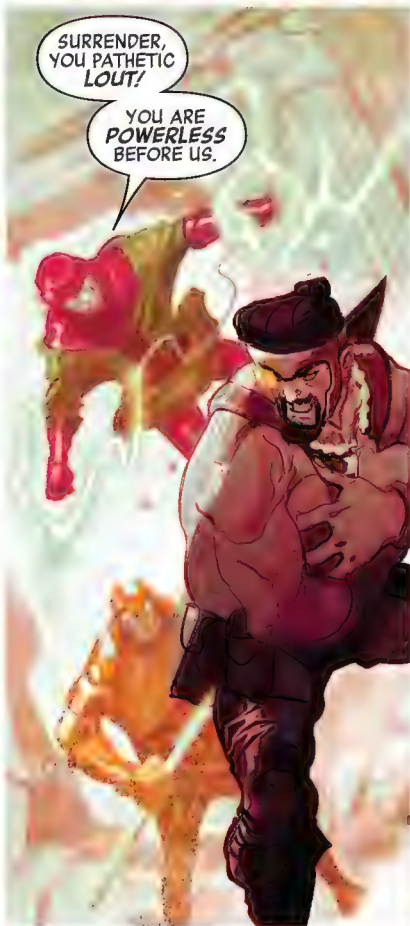
KANG, YOU DODDERING FOOL!

YOU'RE BEING TOO CLEVER BY HALF! LET ME HANDLE THE GREEK!

JUST TAKE CARE OF THE PRIESTS!







SURRENDER,
YOU PATHETIC
LOUT!

YOU ARE
POWERLESS
BEFORE US.



YOU ARE
BEATEN.
WORTHLESS.
AND
ALONE.



WRONG.



HE'S
WITH US.

**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**



STAY CLOSE TO
HERCULES AND
THE PENDANT!

YOU CANNOT
DIE WITHIN ITS RADIUS!
YOU'RE SAFE HERE SO
LONG AS YOU--





LOOK AT YOU. WHY FIGHT? YOU KNOW HOW THIS WILL END.

EVENTUALLY, I WILL HAVE MY PRIZE. I CAN WAGE WAR FOREVER.

TIME IS ON MY SIDE.



!

HE'S RIGHT.





WAIT.
HOW CAN
WE--?

SINCE WHEN
DO YOU HAVE YOUR
OWN PERSONAL
TIME MACHINE
HANDY?



SINCE OUR
KANG WAS
RELIEVED OF
HIS.



I KILLED
YOU *ONCE*
ALREADY TODAY,
SPIDER-MAN.

I'M
GETTING
RATHER *GOOD*
AT IT.

EYAAAAAH!



MY SYSTEM
HAS INTERFACED
WITH THE SUIT
CONTROLS. I HAVE
PROGRAMMED IT TO
SEEK THE PRECISE
MOMENT
OF THE CHILD'S
ABDUCTION!

RETURN
HIM!

ME?

THE REST
OF US ARE BEST
SUITED TO SHIELD
YOU FROM
PURSUIT!

FLY, NADIA!
YOU ALONE
CAN SAVE
US!



TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT



Got feedback? Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print"!